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LOUGHBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

for the Year Ending 31st December 1909.

Gentlemen ,

I have the honour to present to you, my Annual Report for the year 1909.

I have not followed the usual routine of previous years, but have endeavoured as nearly as possible to conform to the recommendation, contained in a recent memorandum of the Local Government Board on this subject.

Area in statute acres	20544
Population (Census 1901).	4630
Number of Inhabited Houses.	760
Average number of persons per house.	6

The physical features and general character of the district are an undulating rural district high on eastern portion, namely, the parishes of Burton-on-the-Wolds and Prestwold, the lands of which are largely used for grazing cattle and sheep. Lower down and nearer the Borough of Loughborough come the Parishes of Burton Bandalls, Prestwold, and Cotes, and Hoton consisting of rich fertile land, a considerable portion of which is cultivated, and the same may be said of the Parishes of Woodthorpe, Nanpanton, Thorpe Acre & Dishley, Garendon, consists mostly of the dimesne of that name. The Parishes of Hathern, Long Whatton, and Belton consist largely of grazing land. The condition of the inhabitants of the District is fairly prosperous. The chief occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture.

There are no occupations having a prejudicial influence on the Public Health. There are two factory workshops at Hathern and one at Long Whatton bot Hosiery, and employing mostly women.

The house accomodation, that is to say the number of cottages available for the working classes is fairly adequate, and the cottages are all fit for habitation.

There is abundance of space about the houses and a rather high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

There is practically no supervision over the erection of new houses, except so far as drainage, paving, collection and disposal of house refuse; and water supply, are concerned. At Hathern some new cottages of a superior class have been erected during the last four years, but in the other parts of the district very few new houses have been erected. The population of the district is practically stationary.

WATER SUPPLY

The village of Hanpanton and Prestwold Hall as well as Burleigh Hall, have a Public Water supply from the Borough of Loughborough, the supply is uniformily good in quality and abundant in quantity.

In the other portions of the district the water supply is derived from wells, and as well water is constantly liable to change, from pollution from the surface of adjoining ground, movement of subsoil water etc. this matter receives a considerable amount of attention from the Inspector of Nuisances. Sixteen (16) samples of drinking were submitted to me for analysis during the year. Seven were unsound and a new supply ordered. Nine were passed.

MILK SUPPLY

Milk supply is derived from farms in the district, there is no milk imported, but considerable quantites of milk are sent out of the District to London and other large towns. The dairies are subject to regular inspection under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, and a Veterinary Inspector is appointed to examine cows, and other cattle in the district. Every precaution is used for the detection of tuberculous cows, but is a matter beset with considerable difficulty.

OTHER FOODS.

There are no unsound foods, prepared, stored or exposed for sale in the district.

A general supervison is exercised over slaughter houses, but there is no systematic inspection.

The slaughter houses are all in a cleanly condition.

The Foods and Drugs Act is administered by the Police.

No action was taken or was necessary under Section 117 Public Health Act 1875.

There were no carcases or parts of carcases, condemned for tuberculosis.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

At Wymeswold there is a system of sewerage put down about thirty years ago, there is a reservoir for flushing at the higher end of the village, and a sewage farm with settling tanks for extracting sludge, the effluent is not quite satisfactory, and the Council have made some improvement, during the year, and are taking steps to acquire more land for irrigation and filtration purposes, so as to be able to discharge a satisfactory effluent.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Compulsary Notification Act is in force.

By an arrangement with the Loughborough Corporation Enteric fever and Diphtheria cases may be isolated at the Borough Isolation Hospital. The County Council provide Isolation Hospital for Small Pox. All other infectious diseases are isolated at their homes. Disinfection is carried out with Sulphur Dioxide and Formaldehyde spray.

METHODS OF CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

When the Inspector or myself hear of a case of consumption the bed-room occupied by the patient is periodically sprayed with Formaldehyde, and when a death occurs, the house is thoroughly disinfected. There is no notification and no hospital accommodation for cases early or advanced. My experience of over thirty years practice, among the working classes, leads me to the conclusion, that it is much more important and effectual to spend public money in the isolation of advanced cases of phthisis, from the period when they cease to be able to work and their death; than to spend such money in the equipment and maintainance of expensive sanitoria, which in the majority of cases do more than to temporarily arrest the disease, The patient is then sent home resumes his work for a few months, again breaks down, and then lingers miserably in a cottage, coughing and spitting, and infecting his surroundings and his family.

BYE LAWS.

The District Council have never adopted Bye Laws and I am inclined to think that in a scattered Rural District like this Bye Laws would tend rather to retard, than promote the erection of suitable dwellings for workmens families. There is one small Blacksmith's Yard but no offensive trade.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools of the District are administered by the Education Committee of the Leicestershire County Council, and the medical Inspection of school-children is also arranged for by them. They have appointed me Assistant School Medical Officer, to supervise and report on the Sanitary Conditions of the seven Elementary Schools in the District.

The general sanitary conditions of the schools is fairly good, but I have made a number of recommendations to the County Council, as a result of my visits on such subjects as dampness, water supply, lighting, ventilation, and from which I hope by next year to be able to report some satisfactory results. The floors of the schools are only washed twice a year, I am of opinion that they ought to be thoroughly washed and scrubbed once a month.

I am glad of the recent Memorandum of the Board of Education on the subjects of School closure and exclusion from school of particular children.

It is a most valuable document, and gives the Sanitary Service

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officials their proper position, as heretofore in the district, school closure has been resorted to as a matter of expediency on account of diminishing attendance rather than as a matter of necessity to prevent the spread of Infectious disease; but the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health was always expected.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE(cont).

At Burton-on-the-Wolds the sewerage is passed over an osier plot, which has yielded a satisfactory effluent.

Through the remainder of the district, liquid house refuse finds its way in the ordinary manner through the house drain to the village sewer, and thence by the lines of natural drainage, (which in most instances are long dykes) to the nearest river or brook, these dykes are really long settling tanks in which most of the suspended matter is deposited and a large quantity of dissolved matter is oxydised, so that there is very little pollution of rivers or streams, from the various parishes constituting this district.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The system in vogue for the purpose is the old fashioned midden and privy arrangement the defects of which are soakage of liquid contents into the subsoil, polluting the water supply, which as stated above is mainly from wells.

Efforts have been made during this last few years to reduce the number of deeply sunken middens and to substitute for them, those floors and sides of which being above the surface of the ground, are constructed of concrete or other impermiable material, and this course of procedure, will be continued in the future.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This is done by the occupiers, There are no public scavengers.

NUISANCES.

Legal proceedings were not necessary for the abatement of any nuisances, 261 nuisances were detected, reported and abated. There are no nuisances known to your officials, which remain unabated.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered, was 107, which is 11 less than last year, but is exactly the average of the last 10 years, and is an annual birth rate of 24 per thousand of the estimated population.

MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered as having occurred in the district is 65 to this number must be added 6 deaths of residents which occurred in Public institutions beyond the District. In this manner we arrive at the corrected mortality, which is 73 being one more than last year and 6 above the average of the last ten years, and is an annual mortality of 16.6 per thousand.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of infants under 1 year was 9, which is just half as many as last year and is 2 below the average of the last 10 years. This diminished infantile mortality is highly satisfactory.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

Four deaths were registered as due to these diseases three being from Influenza and one from Enteric fever; this is one more than last year and exactly the average of the last ten years, and is a Zymotic Mortality of 0.9 per thousand.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 42 which is 35 more than last year, and double the average of the last ten years.

The cases were as follows:-

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	35
Enteric Fever	2
Phthisis (Poor Law).	2
Total	42

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

One case of this disease arose at Long Whatton in February, it was of the post scarlatina type.

The other case occured at Belton in August and was imported.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case of this disease was reported at Belton in January, and was of no sanitary significance.

SCARLET FEVER.

35 Cases of this disease occurred all at Long Whatton andthis is the principal factor in the increased incidence of infectious disease in the district, during the year under review.

The first cases were notified 5 or 6 days after the re-opening of the schools after the Christmas holiday (namely on January 13), and 6 cases were notified in rapid succession up to the 18th, all being children attending the school , on that date, after making every enquiry I could think of to elucidate the origin of the outbreak I recommended the closing of the schools for six weeks, which was done accordingly, and the result was most disappointing from a Public Health point of view.

The notifications came in steadily and by the end of January, 13 were received; only three cases were notified in February, and I began to have hope that the school closure had a good effect. But in March 4 cases were notified, in April 5, in May 3, in June 3, in July 2, After the summer holidays when the schools were disinfected (as well as during the closure in January and February) no case occured until October 11, and no other until December 29 (an imported case) and finally one on December 31 in a family where other cases had occurred previously.

I am of opinion that the closing of the school had no appreciable effect on the spread of the outbreak, and I should not have recourse to this proceedure under similar circumstances in the future, but should rather trust to a judicious system

of exclusion, disinfection of the homes and especially of the clothing of the patients; in fact as closely as possible to follow out the recommendations of the recent memorandum of the Board of Education on these subjects.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases of this disease occured at Long Sutton in the same house, (husband and wife) the husband probably contracted the disease from drinking impure water on his business rounds, and the wife thinking it was only diarrhoea nursed him, and contracted the disease, in the husbands case the disease terminated fatally, there was no further spread of the disease.

PHTHISIS.

Two Poor Law cases of this disease were notified both at Hathern, from the date of the notifications the rooms occupied by the patients were periodically disinfected with Formaldehyde and general instructions given, which appeared to be much appreciated by the patients and their friends.

DAIRIES COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 58 Dairymen Cowkeepers and purveyors of milk in the district, all of whom are registered. 112 inspections have been made to such premises. In 32 instances the cowsheds etc. required cleansing and whitewashing, and in every instance this work was done without legal proceedings becoming necessary.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT 1901.

In the administration of this act 2 inspections were made of Factories, 132 of Workshops, and 19 of workplaces. Want of cleanliness, was detected, and remedied in 9 instances.
In four instances outwork was found being carried on in infected premises, orders were served in each case, the materials were disinfected and the work stopped.

From the report of the Inspector of nuisances appended hereto will be seen details of the amount of sanitary work accomplished during the year.

Appended are also, tabulated statistics as to population births and mortality for the present and previous ten years; also of infectious diseases notified, and of deaths, classified, according to diseases, ages, and localities; also of deaths under 1 year, classified according to diseases and ages, copies of which, as well as of the report, when printed, will be sent to the Leicestershire County Council, the Home Office, and the Local Government Board.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS CORCORAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Loughborough,
18 January 1910.

STATISTICS.

Mortality from subjoined causes:- Enteric Fever 1, Epidemic influenza 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2, Cancer (Malignant) 7, Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 7, Premature birth 3, Diseases and accidents of Parturition 1, Heart Diseases 9, Accidents 4, All other causes 40. Total 73.

	Births Registered.	Average last 10 years.	Deaths Registered.	Average last 10 years.
Bolton	18	15	5	8
Burton on the Wolds	3	8	5	3
Charley	1	3	2	2
Cotes and Prestwold	1	3	0	1
Garendon	2	1	0	0
Hathern	27	25	17	17
Hoton	5	5	3	4
Long Whatton	13	12	9	8
Nanpanton	6	6	3	3
Thorpe Acre & Dishley	5	7	3	5
Woodthorpe	2	1	2	1
Wymeswold	24	19	16	11

Total Births registered	107
Average last 10 years	107
Rate per 1000 for last year	24.0
Average last 10 years	24.1
Total Deaths registered	65
Average last 10 years	73
Rate per 1000 for last year	14.6
Average last 10 years	14.3

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Loughborough Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

During the past year I have made 970 inspections in the various parishes comprising the Loughborough Rural District.

Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	28
Elementary Schools do do	3
Lots of clothing disinfected.	25
Samples of drinking water taken for analysis	16
Wells cleansed and repaired	7
Middens cleansed and repaired by order.	
Drain and drain trap nuisances abated	24
Houses overcrowded, abated.	3
Dirty houses cleansed and limewashed by order	4

The Sewerage dykes in the various parishes have been cleansed as required and the Wymeswold Sewerage Farm has been dug over levelled and planted with osiers, and through the better supervision since this was taken over by the Council a long standin nuisance has been abated causing it to discharge a much better effluent into the brook.

Factories and Workshops in the District have been kept in a clean state with nine exceptions which cases I served notices for these to be cleansed and limewashed and in four cases have homework been stopped because of the outbreak of Infectious Diseases.

Cowsheds and Dairies have been periodically inspected and in no case have I been it necessary to draw the Veterinary Inspector's attention to any milking cow.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H. J. MORGAN.

Sanitary Inspector.

Hoton,
18 January 1910.